

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings because they do not contain the reference legend 56 that is mentioned in the description. The Examiner similarly objects to the drawings as not containing the reference legend 50a that is mentioned in the specification.

In response, Applicant has amended the specification to replace the reference to figure legend 56 with a reference to figure legend 50a since reference numerals 56 and 50a designate the same feature. By amending the specification to delete reference to figure legend 56 and replacing it with reference legend 50a which is in the drawing figures, this ground of objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also objected to the specification as containing a number of informalities. Based on the Examiner's comments and suggestions, Applicant has amended the specification to correct the informalities and therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also objected to the claim 1 as containing a number of informalities. Applicant has amended claim 1 in view of the Examiner's comments and therefore, the objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 5 to remove the term "to be" and therefore, this ground of rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chase. Accordingly, the Examiner states that Chase discloses all of the features of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this ground of rejection based on the following.

Chase discloses a metal-plated plastic overlay on a disk of a vehicle wheel. The overlay covers the entirety of the disk. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the cover of the present invention “has deformable narrow spokes portions for partially covering, along a radial direction of the wheel, a disk radial portion” of the wheel. In contrast, the overlay “spokes” in Chase entirely cover the underlying webs 14a of the wheel as opposed to the present invention where the spoke portions only partially cover the disk radial portion. Accordingly, this feature is not disclosed in the Chase reference.

In addition, claim 1 also recites that the deformable narrow spoke portions are provided with thin, deformable parts covering the approximately middle part of the disk radial portion. When read in combination with the above feature that recites that the spoke portion only partially covers the disk radial portion, Applicant respectfully submits that the Chase reference clearly does not suggest placing the spoke portion only in a middle part of the disk radial portion due to it only partially covering the radial disk portion. Applicant respectfully submits that the arrangement of a spoke portion in the middle part of the disk radial portion is clearly not disclosed in the Chase reference.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that several features recited in claim 1 are not disclosed in the Chase reference and therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as amended, are earnestly solicited.

Claims 3-5 should be allowed as depending from what should be an allowed independent claim 1, as amended.

Claim 6 has been added and recites that the thin, deformable part is positioned so that side edge portions of the disk radial portion on either side of the thin, deformable part are visible and extend radially outward from side edges of the thin, deformable part.

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